

**Students in EHEA are increasingly working alongside studies; the majority of internships are unpaid**

**The majority of students in EUROSTUDENT countries work alongside their studies. In most EUROSTUDENT countries, the share of working students has been steadily increasing. Half of students work because they would not be able to afford to study otherwise. On average, almost half of students in EUROSTUDENT countries have completed an internship. The majority of internships, even mandatory ones, are unpaid. These are some findings of the** [**EUROSTUDENT VII Synopsis of Indicators report**](https://www.eurostudent.eu/download_files/documents/EUROSTUDENT_VII_Synopsis_of_Indicators.pdf)**, published today.**

The Synopsis of Indicators is the main report of EUROSTUDENT project, incorporating the data of 25 countries participating in the current project round and giving an **in-depth analytical overview of the following topics:** characteristics of national student populations, socio-economic background of students, transition into and within higher education, types and modes of study, students’ time budget, students’ employment and internships, students’ resources, students’ expenses, housing situation and international student mobility.

The EUROSTUDENT report provides answers to a number of intriguing **questions,** for example:

* Are we correct in thinking about students as mostly young people (in their twenties)?
* Are higher education systems designed inclusive enough to welcome students with impairments?
* How does educational background of parents affect students’ experience in higher education?
* Which field of study has the most students with drop-out intentions?
* How do students assess their financial situation and which student groups are particularly affected by financial problems?

**The report enables** policy-makers and researchers alike to better understand the social dimension of higher education in order to move towards increased inclusivity and widened participation – important goals outlined in the latest ministerial communiqué of the Bologna Process (Rome Communiqué 2020) as well as in the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of the European Higher Education Area.

**Besides the EUROSTUDENT VII Synopsis of Indicators report,** two additional reports have been published: one focusing on flexible study pathways into and within higher education, and one investigating the social integration of students in higher education. The data are publicly accessible in the form of indicators in the EUROSTUDENT database. Anonymised micro data is available for research purposes in the form of a Scientific Use File. Additionally, the project releases several smaller publications focusing on various topics related to higher education, and interactive national profiles encompassing main results of all EUROSTUDENT countries.

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**Some of the main results of the EUROSTUDENT VII Synopsis of Indicators report**

On average, almost 80% of students in the EUROSTUDENT countries have a paid job; around 60% work during the lecture period; 18% work only during the lecture-free period. The highest proportions of working students can be found in Iceland, the Czech Republic, Romania, and Turkey where over 90% of students work, whereas this applies to at most 60% of students in Luxembourg, Georgia, and Portugal. Working alongside studies is more common among students who are older than average, study at Master’s level, do not receive public financial support, and whose parents do not have tertiary education. In most EUROSTUDENT countries, the share of working students has been steadily increasing.

Employment is not always a choice for students in EHEA. 68% of students work due to the necessity to cover their living costs; half of students work because they would not be able to afford to study otherwise. This is most often the case for students whose parents did not attain a tertiary degree themselves. The income generated from paid jobs plays an important role in students’ budgets, accounting on average for almost two thirds of the income of students working during the lecture period. “This is an important finding that highlights the fact that these students need flexibility in order to successfully pursue their studies alongside their paid jobs – something of which both policy-makers and higher education institutions should be aware”, points out Kristina Hauschildt, the project coordinator.

Students’ internships were a focus area of interest in this project round. On average, 43% of students in the EUROSTUDENT countries have completed an internship at some point in their studies. There are considerable differences between countries, however. A striking finding is that the majority of internships, even mandatory ones, are unpaid. On average, 19% of internships are mandatory and paid, 54% mandatory and unpaid, 14% voluntary and paid, and 12% voluntary and unpaid. “This really raises the question to what extent different students’ groups have equal opportunities to take a few weeks or months to fully concentrate on a work experience or internship”, states Froukje Wartenbergh-Cras, a co-author of the report. “Fulfilling internship requirements may cause problems for students relying on a paid job to finance their studies.”

**About EUROSTUDENT**

EUROSTUDENT is a network of researchers as well as data collectors, representatives of national ministries, and other stakeholders who have joined forces to examine the social and economic conditions of student life in higher education systems in Europe. The beginning of EUROSTUDENT goes back to the 1990s. The seventh round of the project with 26 participating countries took place from June 2018 to May 2021, with an extension until August 2021 due to delays encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The participants reach from Iceland in the north all the way to Turkey in the south and from Portugal in the west to Georgia in the east. The EUROSTUDENT survey provides a broad, policy-relevant cross-country comparison of data on the social dimension and of student mobility in European higher education. By directly surveying students and collecting data on a wide range of topics, EUROSTUDENT is able to provide indicators on many policy-relevant aspects of students’ lives with the aim of inspiring policy debates and laying the ground for further research. EUROSTUDENT often provides a unique perspective, as comparable indicators are not available through other data sources.

The project is carried out by a consortium led by the German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (DZHW). Further members are the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Austria; Praxis Centre for Policy Studies (Praxis), Estonia; ResearchNed, the Netherlands; Government Strategic Analysis Center (STRATA), Lithuania; ​Malta Further & Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), Malta; and the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Switzerland.

**Additional information**

[EUROSTUDENT project website](http://www.eurostudent.eu/)

[EUROSTUDENT database](https://database.eurostudent.eu/drm/)

[Scientific Use File](https://metadata.fdz.dzhw.eu/en/data-packages/stu-es7?page=1&size=10&type=surveys&access-way=download-suf&version=1.0.0)

[Thematic Review on flexible study pathways](http://www.praxis.ee/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/TR_FLP_EVII.pdf)

[Thematic Review on the social integration of students](https://www.researchned.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ESVII_TR_SocialIntegration.pdf)

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